



Institute for Parents of Preschool Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Division of Specialized
Care for Children

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Overview

- The History
- Mission and Purpose
- Institute Events
- Staffing
- Funding


Serving Illinois Families 64 Years

A History of the Institute

The First Institute

- June 1945 (two week program)
- 21 mothers and children (2.5-5 years of age) attended
- Mrs. Spencer Tracy was a speaker
- Mothers learned about deafness, teaching techniques they could use at home with their child



The Institute Grows and Changes

- 1946 lip reading training and speech training added; play conference
- 1946 Audiology added; hearing assessments
- 1948 Morning evaluations
- 1954 included a special program for fathers; otologist added to Institute staff



The Institute Grows and Changes

- 1960-70 increase in local services for students
- 1972 total communication embraced at Institute
- 1980 and 1990s served approximately 35 families
- 1998 added sibling component to the institute
- 2004 DSCC provided family scholarships



The First Institute

- **Funded by :**
 - Illinois School for the Deaf
 - The Illinois Commission for Handicapped Children
 - The Division of Specialized Care for Children (Title V)

*Together, Families
Reaching for the Best
Tomorrow*

64 years later



Mission

The mission of the Institute is:

- To enhance the knowledge of parents of infants and toddlers who are deaf or hard of hearing,
- To encourage parents to act on this knowledge, and to evaluate the infants and toddlers using a multi-disciplinary approach.

A Week at Institute



From Sunday registration that includes *cookies and bubbles* by the Tiger pond, to Friday's *graduation ceremony* for the families, the Institute is a **learning**, **skill building**, **connecting** and **understanding** experience.



Institute Facts

- Held one week in June at ISD in Jacksonville
- Sponsored by DRS/ISD, DSCC, ISBE, DHS, IDPH
- Up to 25 families parents and their children under 5 with moderate to profound hearing loss can attend
- Sibling program for children under age 8

DSCC

- Medical Eligibility for DSCC assistance
 - Treatable, chronic hearing loss 30db or greater in at least two frequencies: 500hz, 1000hz, 2000hz, 4000hz, or 8000hz in either or both ears
- OR**
- Must have 35 db loss or greater in any speech frequency: 500hz, 1000hz, or 2000hz, in either or both ears

Institute Facts



- Staffed by experts in deafness from all over the state
- No charge to families for the Institute
- Referrals to Institute processed through DSCC



Institute Goals



- Empower families to work effectively with service providers
- Provide information on:
 - hearing impairment,
 - child development
 - language development
 - programming options
 - psycho-social implications of hearing impairment



Institute Goals



- Evaluate using multiple disciplines:
 - Education
 - Otology
 - Optometry
 - Audiology
 - Speech/language
 - Psychology



Institute Goals



- Provide individual written reports with recommendations
- Provide parent networking opportunities with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing



Institute Goals



- Provide opportunities for children to interact with peers
- Assist families in follow-up for Institute recommendations



A Week at Institute



- **The Child Experiences**
 - Psychological evaluation
 - Audiological Evaluation
 - ENT Evaluation
 - Vision Screening
 - Education Evaluation
 - Speech Language Evaluation
 - Early Childhood Classes



A Week at Institute



• The Parent Experiences

- Group counseling
- Introduction to sign language
- Information on Education
- Comprehensive case review



LECTURES:

- Reading to your children
- Parent's rights
- Cochlear implants
- The ear and hearing
- Choices in Deafness Communication Options
- Hearing aid and FM technology
- Deaf children with multiple disabilities



The Deaf experience: families get the opportunity to experience telecommunication devices accessible to the Deaf such as video relay, multi media phones, and TTY's. Also they go to various booths to experience closed captioning, CART, vibrating musical chairs, assistive listening devices such as smoke alarms, bed shakers..., silent booths using ASL only.

Experiential Learning



• Parent panel: panelists represent the cross-section of communication modes chosen by a family and the journey the family has taken



Experiential Learning: Language books



- Parent social: a time for parents to go out for dinner and socializing with other parents while child care is provided

A Week at Institute



• The Sibling experiences

- Interactions with other siblings
- Opportunity to learn about deafness, sign language and deaf culture
- Recreation activities

The Sibling Program allows:

- both parents to attend (including dads)
- siblings the chance to explore how their brother or sisters hearing loss effects on them and understand, "why are mom and dad busy all the time"
- siblings the opportunity to express themselves and ask questions



- Siblings are 0-8 years of age
- Resources permitting, the siblings receive vision and hearing screenings during the week.



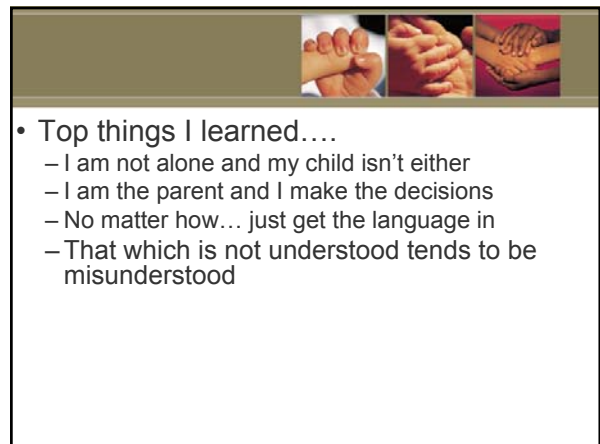
ISD
dining hall

Mealtime is
family time



"We are taking a lot of knowledge, friendships and good memories home from this place. Thank you for helping me see that my child can have a bright future."
- A Parent

"Knowing that someone cares, gives us strength, and the courage to survive in raising our child the best way we can. Thank you very much."
~ A Parent



• Top things I learned....

- I am not alone and my child isn't either
- I am the parent and I make the decisions
- No matter how... just get the language in
- That which is not understood tends to be misunderstood

Graduation



Graduation



YEARS OF FUN...



Funding



- Approximately \$85,000 (grants)
- In-kind contributions

State Supporters



- IL Department of Human Services
 - Division of Rehabilitation Services / Illinois School for the Deaf
 - Illinois Early Intervention
- IL Department of Public Health
- Illinois State Board of Education
- UIC – Division of Specialized Care for Children

Other Supporters



- Gallaudet University Regional Center at Johnson County Community College
- Chicago Children's Memorial Hospital

Staffing



- 4 audiologists \$ ☺
 - 2 audiology interns \$
- 6 teachers \$
 - 6 Cadet teachers \$
- 3 Speech language pathologists \$ ☺
 - 3 speech language pathology interns \$

\$ paid through grants
☺ provided in-kind

Staffing



- 3 psychologists \$
- 2 Early childhood consultants \$
- 1 otolaryngologist \$ ☺
- 1 ophthalmologist \$
 - 1 vision consultant \$

\$ paid through grants
☺ provided in-kind

Staffing



- 1 group counselor (doctor of psychology) \$
- 1 parent educator \$
- 1 sign language instructor \$
- 1 reading and language specialist \$

\$ paid through grants
☺ provided in-kind

Staffing



- Translators (varies on requests due to the primary language of the family) \$
- Drivers to transport ☺
 - Families to ISD from the train station
 - Parents to the social event
 - Children to the remote audiology test site

\$ paid through grants
☺ provided in-kind

Staffing



- Nursery School for siblings age 0-7 years \$
 - 4 educators
 - 1 sibling counselor
 - 2 cadet educators

\$ paid through grants
☺ provided in-kind

Staffing



- ISD dietary services (3 meals and 3 snacks a day) \$
- 24 hour health center coverage by Registered Nursing staff and physician on-call \$
- Recreation supervision at the pool and gymnasium \$

\$ paid through grants
☺ provided in-kind

Staffing



- 2 dormitory supervisors ☺
 - 25 residential care workers providing 24/7 coverage
- ISD housekeeping ☺

\$ paid through grants
☺ provided in-kind

Other expenses:



- Meals and snacks ☺
- Printing ☺
- Parent materials (sign language books, backpacks) ☺

Other expenses:



- Transportation for the family ☺
- Stipends (per day rate) ☺
- Classroom supplies (educational, personal care, and rewards) ☺
- Misc.

Outcome measures



- Parent pre- and post test
- Parent evaluation of all staff
- Staff evaluation

